

**TOP SECRET**

Approved For Release 2005/01/31 : CIA-RDP79M00467A00250009-8

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 154/76  
14 September 1976  
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9/15/76*

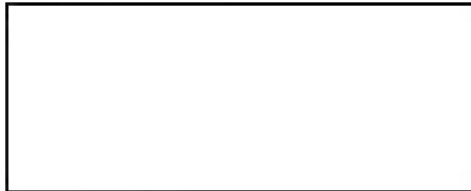
MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

FROM: National Intelligence Officer  
for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Backfire Comparisons

As you requested, the attached table contains data, provided by OWI, comparing US estimates of Backfire performance with Soviet claims. Note especially the last footnote. Brezhnev's claim is too subject to variable assumptions to be compared confidently with either US estimate.

Attachment



*T-10.2*

Classified by                       
Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption schedule 5B (1), (2), (3)  
Automatically declassified on  
1 Oct 2000 pursuant to E.O. 11652

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Office of the Director  
of Central Intelligence

SP - 154/76

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SUBJECT: Backfire Comparisons

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NIO/SP: [ ] (15Sep76)

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COMPARISON OF US INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES  
OF BACKFIRE PERFORMANCE WITH SOVIET-CLAIMED PERFORMANCE 1/

	<u>CIA 2/</u>	<u>USAF 3/</u>	<u>Soviet Claim</u>
High-Altitude Subsonic			
Radius	1,800 or 2,150 nm	2,900 nm	2,160 nm <u>4/</u>
Range	3,500 or 4,150 nm	5,400 nm	
High-Altitude Supersonic			
Radius	400-1,650 nm <u>5/</u>		1,190 nm <u>6/</u>

- 1/ US Intelligence estimates are derived on the basis of about a 5 percent reserve. Soviet claims probably are based on their standard of a 10 percent fuel reserve.
- 2/ CIA estimates are with a 10,000 pound payload. Two values are shown to reflect that critical data about wing design are unknown. The higher number shows performance with a wing optimized for subsonic cruise at high altitudes. The lower number is for a compromise subsonic/supersonic wing design. The latter best fits demonstrated performance.
- 3/ USAF estimates are with a 22,250 pound payload and assume that the wing design is optimized for subsonic cruise.
- 4/ General Trusov's claim of a 4,000 km radius with an unspecified payload and 10 percent fuel reserve. (Trusov is military representative on Soviet SALT Delegation.)
- 5/ The spread of values reflects the wide variation in length of supersonic flight which could be employed. The lowest value is for an all-supersonic flight. 25X1D
- 6/ Secretary Brezhnev's claim of a 2,200 km radius for a mission with "intermittent" supersonic and subsonic flight legs (length, altitude, and speed unspecified), a "minimal" payload (otherwise unspecified), and unspecified fuel reserve. Depending on the lengths and speeds of the subsonic and supersonic flight legs in the mission profile he was using, Brezhnev's claim could be consistent with both the CIA and USAF estimates.

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SA/DCI	- Per your request									
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; display: inline-block;"> <p>BACKFIRE RANGE CHART USED BY DCI WITH PRESIDENT FRIDAY, 17 SEPT, 1976</p> </div>										
<p>ITEM DETACHED FOR DCI'S "BIGOTTED" FILE to be held in ER.</p>										
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REMARKS:		
<p>See SA/DCI note.</p> <p><i>File</i> <i>10.2</i> <i>14 Sept 76</i></p> <p><i>Note also written on</i> <i>the attached Gen Hist</i></p>		
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